

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When a user makes a request to a server for a specific service, a decision must be made as to whether the user's traffic should be forwarded to the server providing the requested service and where to forward the user's traffic. This decision may be made on the basis of the user's access privileges (i.e. whether the user is allowed to access the service), service level parameters (e.g. amount of network bandwidth the user is limited to or guaranteed to), or security services (i.e. activated anti-virus or URL filters). Every time a user makes an authentication request, a Service policy director collects the user's identification and service attribute information during authentication and registration phases. For each identified user, these attributes are stored in a User Policy Table. The Service policy director consults the User Policy Table to determine whether to forward the user's traffic. The Service policy director may also collect network traffic statistics or statistics pertaining to individual user traffic.